

Message Text

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14
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 INR-07 SS-15 /045 W
----- 080735

R 020900Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6694
INFO USDAO DAKAR
USDAO RABAT
HQ USAF WASHDC
USDAO MONROVIA
USDAO KINSHASA
CDR 21ST SUPCOM AVIM BN (PROV) SANDHOFEN GER
DET 6 2ND ADG RHEIN MAIN AB GER
2ND ADG LANGLEY AFB VA
DET 14 2ND ADG TORREJON AB SP
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
JACCC TORREJOB AB SP
DIA WASH DC/AH-6

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 2972

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCLR, MR
SUBJECT: PROCEDURES FOR MILITARY OVERFLIGHT/LANDING REQUESTS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. GIRM REQUIRES MINIMUM TWENTY DAYS FOR
PROCESSING OF OVERFLIGHT/LANDING CLEARANCE REQUESTS
FOR MILITARY AIRCRAFT. EMBASSY WOULD PREFER,
HOWEVER, TO HAVE THIRTY DAYS ADVANCE NOTICE TO PROCESS
REQUEST. POSITIVE RESPONSE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM GIRM
BEFORE OVERFLIGHT/LANDING CAN TAKE PLACE. (LACK OF
RESPONSE FROM GIRM DOES NOT INDICATE MAURITANIAN
CONCURRENCE). DESIGNATION OF AIRCRAFT AS "DIPLOMATIC"
DOES NOT REPT NOT REMOVE REQUIREMENT FOR SPECIAL
HANDLING OF CLEARANCE REQUESTS. ACCORDING TO
GIRM INTERPRETATION, ALL MILITARY AIRCRAFT ARE
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SUBJECT TO THIS LENGTHY CLEARANCE PROCEDURE IN

SPITE OF FACT THAT AIRCRAFT MAY BE SERVING
"DIPLOMATIC FUNCTION. END UNCLASSIFIED BEGIN
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2. COMMENT: EXPATRIATE OFFICIAL IN GIRM CIVIL
AVIATION OFFICE BRIEFED DCM ON THIS TOPIC
DECEMBER 1. OFFICIAL NOTED THAT GIRM HAS BECOME
INCREASINGLY "VIGILANT" ABOUT RQUESTS FOR
MILITARY OVERFLIGHTS AND LANDINGS, APPARENTLY AS
OUTGROWTH OF MILITARY CONFLICT WITH POLISARIO
FORCES AND CONCERN THAT HOSTILE AIRCRAFT MIGHT
PENETRATE MAURITANIAN AIRSPACE. OFFICIAL STATED,
FOR EXAMPLE, THAT ARMY HEADQUARTERS REQUIRES FIFTEEN
DAYS TO REVIEW OVERLFLIGHT/LANDING REQUESTS.
ALTHOUGH PART OF THIS TIME IS CONSUMED BY
BUREAUCRATIC DELAY AND INEFFICIENCY, SOME OF IT IS
REPORTEDLY USED TO CHECK ON BONAFIDES OF PLANE. IN
FUTURE, WE EXPECT THAT ALL REASONABLE RQUESTS FOR
OVERLFLIGHT/LANDING OF US MILITARY PLANES WILL BE
APPROVED. AT SAME TIME, WE MUST ALLOW ADEQUATE
TIME FOR PROCESSING -- MINIMUM TWENTY DAYS AND
IDEALLY THIRTY DAYS.

HANDYSIDE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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